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Dated: October 31, 2005

Signature:

Norman Green
(Norman Green)

Attorney Docket No.: 564462006600
Client Docket No.: D1440-2US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Mark MADDEN et al.

Application No.: 09/751,299

Confirmation No.: 8629

Filed: December 28, 2000

Art Unit: 1652

For: METHODS FOR PRODUCING ALPHA-SUBSTITUTED CARBOXYLIC ACIDS USING NITRILASES AND STRECKER REAGENTS (AMENDED)

Examiner: Kathleen M. Kerr

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 30, 2005 ("OA"), Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. A response was initially due September 30, 2005. Applicants herein submit a petition for a one month extension of time to October 31, 2005 (October 30, 2005, was a Sunday) under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.

The following documents are enclosed herewith:

- Transmittal letter, Fee Transmittal, Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, Return Receipt Postcard;
- Exhibit A: color copy of sequence alignment of prior art nitrilases and sequences of the invention.
- Exhibit B: list of prior art nitrilases used in sequence alignment.
- Exhibit C: copy of Pace and Brenner (2001) Genome Biology 2(1):reviews.
- Exhibit D: copy of Bork (1994) Protein Science 3:1344-1346.
- Exhibit E: copy of Almatawah (1999) Extremophiles 3:283-291.
- Exhibit F: copy of Kobayashi (1998) Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 253:662-666.
- Exhibit G: copy of Kobayashi (1990) J. Bacteriol. 172:4807-4815.
- Exhibit H: copy of abstract for Kobayashi (1989) Eur. J. Biochem. 182:349-356.